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IAF20 Rec'd PCT/PTO 24 JAN 2006

Our ref: 11296P1 WO/CMB.ms

Your ref:

Date: 11 February 2005

European Patent Office
D-80298
Munich
GERMANY

Dear Sirs

International Patent Application No PCT/GB2004/002586
Reckitt Benckiser (UK) Limited

This is in response to the Written Opinion dated 12 October 2004.

In response to the Written Opinion we would like to submit the following comments.

The Examiner indicates that claim 1 lacks novelty in view of DE 4219519 (D1). However, it is submitted that this is not the case. D1 fails to disclose the characterising feature of the present invention, mainly that the deflector plate between the passageways projects beyond the end of the nozzle. Indeed, this feature is not shown in any other cited documents.

As mentioned in the introduction to our application, the present invention is based on the coanda effect in order to mix the two liquid streams. In order to achieve this, it is essential that the side of the stream which is adjacent to the other stream remains in contact with a wall (the deflector plate) longer than the other sides of the stream. This is best illustrated in fig 4a of our application. This contact with the wall provides a deflection of one stream towards the other once it passes the end of the wall.

In contrast, it can be seen, for example from fig 9 of D1 that both nozzles terminate in a plane. In other words, the dividing wall between the two nozzles terminates at the same point as the remainder of the circumference of each nozzle. Such an arrangement cannot provide a deflection provided by the present invention and the two streams leaving the bottle are therefore not combined as effectively as for the present invention.

Although the searcher has only referred to D1 in the Written Opinion it is presumed that the remaining document cited under category X in the International Search Report are also considered to be relevant. However, it will immediately be appreciated that, in common with D1, none of the documents discloses a deflective plate projecting from the end of the nozzle.

It is therefore submitted that claims 1 and 11 as they stand are novel over all the art in the International Search Report.

Yours faithfully
RECKITT BENCKISER plc

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Craig Bowers

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